

## CAEM Minutes

February 23, 2006 – 11:00 to 12:30 EST

Attending: D. Wilson, Blanchard, Roehr, Wainwright, Heath, Vogel, Simunich, Thompson for Mann, R. Wilson, Lautner, Heckert, Hamer, Weber, Sherman, Littlefield.

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1. **Minutes corrections** as per agenda and additional minor changes from Ron Wilson to add.
2. **New Members:** Tammy Beckham is replacing Beth Lautner as the DHS PIADC rep. Dennis Wilson from California Department of Food and Ag was added.
3. **Government Relations Meeting.** Responses to questions sent earlier to the committee. Issues that were raised:
  - a. Communication to State Emergency Representatives via the Regional Designees may need to be increased or reinitiated as several state vets indicated they were not informed of activities going on in EP that were presented in past to CAEM. There was also a suggestion that USDA provide a brief, one page, monthly news bulletin to state vets and AVIC's with concise summary of activities. Dr. Clifford stated the Secy monthly progress report might be of interest to state vets/AVIC's.
    - i. Sebastian would like to know what State Vets are interested in hearing about so they can target those areas in bulletins.
  - b. Develop a white paper with audience of state legislators and Congress to inform them on the differences between Public Health and Veterinary Services funding for emergency preparedness at State level. State vets find state legislators assume DHHS funds listed as Homeland Security, cover all HS issues not just public health. Lee Meyers suggested the white paper. Pat will follow up with her on her ideas she has.
  - c. Develop white paper on incremental funding strategy to involve all states in the NAHLN was recommended. Brett Marsh, Donal O'Toole and NAHLN steering committee to address.
  - d. Kimothy Smith was unable to meet with Govt Relations group on NBAF.
    - i. Lyle Vogel gave the committee a brief update. Call for possible sites was posted. Dr. Smith will be meeting with stakeholders and AVMA and others will continue to interact with him and update the committee. Kimothy will also be presenting at the NIAA Animal Health Emergency Management Committee.
  - e. The Federal Food and Ag Decontamination and Disposal Roles and Responsibilities document is available at <http://www.epa.gov/homelandsecurity/hom/ohs-food.htm>.
4. **NIAA Agenda:**
  - a. Committee meeting is set for 6:00 to 9:00pm, Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6:00 to 9:00 on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. We will make every effort to complete as much work as possible on Wednesday but there may be some overflow to Thursday. NIAA registration materials are online. Lyle Vogel's NIAA Animal Health Emergency Committee will meet Wednesday morning, 8:00 to 12:00, and a number of presenters will be of interest to the committee.
  - b. It was agreed to focus the meeting on setting 1-2 year goals and develop action plans with timelines to accomplish these.
  - c. Beth Lautner stated a web page with pertinent information on NBAF is at [www.dhs.gov/nbaf](http://www.dhs.gov/nbaf).
  - d. The NIAA Committee on Animal Health Emergency Management chaired by Lyle Vogel Agenda includes: update from Sebastian Heath on the USDA Emergency Programs; Tom McGinn on DHS activities. Dr. Watson, Mississippi State Vet, on Katrina impact by Martha Littlefield from Louisiana if travel is approved on the Katrina and Pam Hullinger from Lawrence Livermore National Lab on their activities.
5. **All Hazards Committee:** Keith reported that per e-mail from Bob Ehart, NASDA, he has been busy recently with animal meetings. There are many activities going on from the Lessons Learned project that he is involved with and he will organize a conference call with the subcommittee in early March. He will be in Denver and meet with Keith Roehr and Kevin Dennison March 6<sup>th</sup> to talk about it and Stafford Act revisions. Gary Weber asked to be kept in loop on latter, Food and Ag sector coordinating council is also looking at revisions to the Stafford Act. He and John Adams have spoken with Joe Anelli on this topic.

6. **Update on January USDA AHEM meeting.** Sebastian reported that: All AEC's were required to attend and four AVIC's also attended. The meeting was held January 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. AEC are a resource to areas and states to build a capacity and will participate in the FEMA Regional monthly or quarterly meetings which are an inter-agency committee (RISK). The make up of each region is posted at <http://www.fema.gov/regions/>. Sebastian will give a brief update in April on the progress of these face-to-face inter-agency meetings as it will tie in to the action item of promoting regional industry input emergency response plans for animal events. Key contacts lists include University Co-op Extension, Incident Management teams, the state organization for first responders to animal events. They are developing a spreadsheet with the structure and contacts for the latter.
  - b. The first day of the AHEM meeting reviewed implementation of the guidelines and performance measures, establishing key emergency network contacts including the FEMA Regional Headquarters, requiring at least twice yearly phone call down of the emergency contacts to make sure they are current and a summary of the AVIC versus AEC roles.
  - c. On the second day, the DHS OGT (aka ODP) people gave ~1/2 day overview of what they are working on: National Preparedness Goals and Target Capabilities Assessments; Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Plan; Exercises and Training; Homeland Security Grants; USDA Homeland Security programs and activities; Mutual Aid Management and Credentialing. The information was very worthwhile. Speakers said they could provide similar programs at each regional USAHA meetings. Keith Roehr and Sebastian will try to schedule with the four regions. Some states used the Targeted Capabilities List but it was not in the ODP Guidance Documents. By 2007, the TCL list will be included in the Guidance Document.
  - d. Day three included Department of Ag updates from various groups including NPIP. Tom Gomez stationed at CDC, Wildlife Services, Animal Care, etc.

R Heckert inquired on funding and activities focused on preparation for zoonotic and emerging diseases of unknown agents. Generally agencies and others feel that HPAI will serve as a template for these events but there is not good integration of animal and public health activities. Gary Weber suggested more case study exercises to validate what plans exist between human and animal agencies and include industry. An earlier exercise involved bottled water but in general there is a clear separation of human from animal diseases. Need for exercises with high mortality and unknown agent. Marilyn S. stated the CBRNE protection and detection activities often focus on unknown agents. DHS Homeland Security exercise evaluation program (HSEEP) has a framework to conduct and evaluate exercises but ag needs to ensure they are meaningful.
7. **Targeted Capabilities List Update:** Sebastian will review e-mail from Pat Malak. His impression was many of the additional requirements had already been completed for the animal response. He will send out a notice to TCL workgroup on what areas need to be addressed and set up meetings if needed.
8. **Meetings of interest to the group:**
  - a. AVMA sponsored National Disaster Summit will be May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Double Tree in Crystal City near Reagan National Airport. Next week, the organizing committee will develop agenda.
  - b. Gary Sherman stated there will be further discussion on structure as relates to strategic plan and performance requirements for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.
9. **Other announcements:**
  - a. It was suggested that Dr. Lonnie King's appointment as Zoonotic diseases Head for CDC may be a valuable contact regarding veterinary aspects.
  - b. Dr. Willard sent out an e-mail on behalf of Rosemary Speers of CNA requesting information on Foreign Animal Disease exercises and contact people in each state for information. A number of state vets offices already responded to earlier request and DHS sponsored exercises have After action reports posted on their web page. Request will be forwarded to the USAHA regional reps on CAEM to contact the state animal emergency response person CAEM has in email list. Pat Blanchard will follow up with AAVLD laboratory directors.
  - c. Lessons Learned from Katrina is posted at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/index.html>
10. **Next CAEM meeting:** Conference call March 30, Thursday, 11AM EST